

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for controllably delivering signals on a bus wherein the bus is
5 comprised of a first and second segment, the method comprising:

monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of a first signal being driven
thereon;

repeating the first signal on the second bus segment; and

preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus.

10 2. A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

monitoring the second bus segment for the presence of a second signal being driven
thereon;

repeating the second signal on the first bus segment; and

15 preventing the second signal from being repeated on the second bus.

3. A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising maintaining the first and
second bus segments at a logically high level in the absence of a logically low signal being
driven thereon.

20 4. A method, as set forth in claim 3, wherein monitoring the first bus segment for
the presence of the first signal being driven thereon further comprises monitoring the first bus
segment for the presence of a logically low signal being driven thereon.

5. A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein repeating the first signal on the second bus segment further comprises driving a logically low signal on the second bus segment.

5 6. A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising maintaining the first and second bus segments at a logically low level in the absence of a logically high signal being driven thereon.

7. A method, as set forth in claim 6, wherein monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of the first signal being driven thereon further comprises monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of a logically high signal being driven thereon.

8. A method, as set forth in claim 7, wherein repeating the first signal on the second bus segment further comprises driving a logically high signal on the second bus segment.

9. A method, as set forth in claim 2, wherein monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of the first signal being driven thereon further comprises detecting the first signal and delivering an indication of the presence of the first signal, and wherein repeating the first signal on the second bus segment further comprises delivering the first signal on the second bus in response to receiving the indication of the presence of the first signal on the first bus.

10. A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus further comprises blocking the delivery of the indication of the presence of the first signal on the second bus.

5 11. A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus further comprises blocking the detection of the first signal on the second bus.

12. An apparatus for controllably delivering signals on a bus wherein the bus is comprised of a first and second segment, the apparatus comprising:

10 means for monitoring the first bus segment for the presence of a first signal being driven thereon;

means for repeating the first signal on the second bus segment; and

15 means for preventing the first signal from being repeated on the first bus.

13. An apparatus for controllably delivering signals on a bus wherein the bus is comprised of a first and second segment, the apparatus comprising:

a first bit line in the first bus segment;

a first bit line in the second bus segment;

20 a first receiver coupled to the first bit line in the first segment and being adapted for detecting the presence of a signal being driven on the first bit line and providing a first signal indicative of the presence of the driven signal;

a second receiver coupled to the first bit line in the second segment and being adapted for detecting the presence of a signal being driven on the first bit line in the second segment

25 and providing a second signal indicative of the presence of the driven signal;

a first transmitter coupled to the first bit line in the first segment, the first transmitter being adapted to drive a signal on the first bit line of the first bus segment in response to receiving the second signal;

5 a second transmitter coupled to the first bit line in the second bus segment, the second transmitter being adapted to drive a signal on the first bit line of the second bus segment in response to receiving the first signal;

a first blocker adapted to prevent the first transmitter from driving the signal on the first bit line of the first bus segment in response to receiving the second signal; and

10 a second blocker adapted to prevent the second transmitter from driving the signal on the first bit line of the second bus segment in response to receiving the first signal.

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